

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: January 31, 2021

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Prince William Sound Area
Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery
Hinchinbrook Section Closure
Emergency Order # 2-GF-E-05-21

The directed fishery for walleye pollock *Gadus chalcogrammus* using pelagic trawl gear in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS; Registration Area E) **will close in the Bainbridge Section at 12:00 noon January 31.**

The directed walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery in the PWS Inside District opened January 20 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 4.93 million lb. The Inside District is divided into three sections: Hinchinbrook, Knight Island, and Bainbridge with harvest from any section restricted to 60% of the GHL or 2.96 million lb. Based on current effort and projected harvest levels, the allowable harvest in the Hinchinbrook Section will be achieved.

Pollock fishing will remain open in the Knight Island and Bainbridge sections until the GHL or bycatch limits are achieved.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Orders 5, 6, and 8, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Orders. COVID-19 Health Orders may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-order/>.

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